

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:
creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location;
submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network;
performing a preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location to identify errors in said press ready file that would prevent it from being produced at the print service provider location as designed at the designer location and initiating correction of said errors to ensure production substantially as designed;
performing a prepress rework of said press ready file to address any changes in availability of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check to ensure production substantially as designed; and
performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.
2. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said prepress rework comprises reformatting said press ready file for a production device different than a previously selected production device for said press ready file.
3. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file includes determining whether a selected printer is available at the print service provider location and, if not, revising said press ready file for printing on an alternate printer.
4. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file further comprises performing

automated imposition setup of said press ready file to arrange a plurality of design pages of said press ready file onto one or more print pages.

5. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file to select the desired finishing options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

6. A method of managing workflow according to claim 5 wherein said automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file is performed only if an error relating to finishing of said press ready file was identified in said preflight check.

7. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file to select the desired packaging options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

8. A method of managing workflow according to claim 7 wherein said automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file is performed only if an error relating to packaging of said press ready file was identified in said preflight check.

9. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file to select the desired shipping options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

10. A method of managing workflow according to claim 9 wherein said automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file is performed only if an error relating to shipping of said press ready file was identified in said preflight check.

11. A program product for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:

creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location;

submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network;

performing a preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location to identify errors in said press ready file that would prevent it from being produced at the print service provider location as designed at the designer location and initiating correction of said errors to ensure production substantially as designed;

performing a prepress rework of said press ready file to address any changes in availability of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check to ensure production substantially as designed; and

performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.

12. A program product according to claim 11 wherein said prepress rework comprises reformatting said press ready file for a production device different than a previously selected production device for said press ready file.

13. A program product according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file includes determining whether a selected printer is

available at the print service provider location and, if not, revising said press ready file for printing on an alternate printer.

14. A program product according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file further comprises performing automated imposition setup of said press ready file to arrange a plurality of design pages of said press ready file onto one or more print pages.

15. A program product according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file to select the desired finishing options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

16. A program product according to claim 15 wherein said automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file is performed only if an error relating to finishing of said press ready file was identified in said preflight check.

17. A program product according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file to select the desired packaging options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

18. A program product according to claim 17 wherein said automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file is performed only if an error relating to packaging of said press ready file was identified in said preflight check.

19. A program product according to claim 11 wherein said step of performing a prepress rework of the press ready file at the print service provider location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file to select

the desired shipping options for said press ready file when printed at the print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

20. A program product according to claim 19 wherein said automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file is performed only if an error relating to shipping of said press ready file was identified in said preflight check.

21. A system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said system comprising:

- means for creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location;
- means for submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network;
- means for performing a preflight check of said press ready file at the print service provider location to identify errors in said press ready file that would prevent it from being produced at the print service provider location as designed at the designer location and initiating correction of said errors to ensure production substantially as designed;
- means for performing a prepress rework of said press ready file to address any changes in availability of production devices at the print service provider location after performance of the preflight check to ensure production substantially as designed; and
- means for performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.